

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system providing billing support for the exchange of media, the system comprising:

a first television display in a first home of a first user;

a first storage in the first home, the first storage supporting media consumption by the first television display in the first home, and having a first network protocol address;

a user interface, at the first home, having at least one user defined media channel, each of the at least one user defined media channel comprising a sequence of user selected and scheduled media, the user interface supporting selection and scheduling of the media;

at least one server storing the media, and having a second network protocol address; and

server software that receives from the first home via a communication network a request for the delivery of media, the request comprising information securing payment for delivery, and that responds by coordinating the delivery of the media from the at least one server at the second network protocol address to the first storage at the first network protocol address for consumption by the first television display.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, and data.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second network protocol addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN).
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein the communication network is the Internet.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing digitized audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein the information securing payment for delivery comprises at least one of a device ID, a public key for encryption, information related to services, information regarding payment terms, information regarding billing, and media push/access restrictions and limitations.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the information securing payment for delivery is received via the communication network from a second user at a second home.

9. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to the first storage;

the at least one media peripheral providing at least a portion of the information securing payment for delivery; and

the media being delivered to the at least one media peripheral.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, and a MP3 player.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein the identity of a user receiving media is unknown to the at least one server.

12. A system providing billing support for the exchange of media, the system comprising:

a first storage in the first home, the first storage supporting media consumption, and having an associated first protocol address;

a second television display in a second home, and having an associated second protocol address;

a user interface, at the first home, having at least one user defined media channel, each of the at least one user defined media channel comprising a sequence of user selected and scheduled media, the user interface supporting selection and scheduling of the media;

at least one server storing the media; and

server software that receives from the first home at the associated first protocol address, via a communication network, a request for the delivery of the media, the request comprising information securing payment for delivery, and that responds by coordinating the delivery of the media from one of the first storage and the at least one server to the second television display at the associated second protocol address for consumption.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, and data.

14. The system of claim 12 wherein the first and second protocol addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN).

15. The system of claim 12 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network

infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

17. The system of claim 12 wherein the at least one server comprises at least one of a 3rd party service provider, a media storage server, and a broadband head end.

18. The system of claim 12 wherein the identity of a user receiving media is unknown to the at least one server.

19. The system of claim 12 wherein the information securing payment for delivery comprises at least one of a device ID, a public key for encryption, information related to services, information regarding payment terms, information regarding billing, and media push/access restrictions and limitations.

20. The system of claim 12 further comprising:

at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to the set top box circuitry; and

the at least one media peripheral providing the media.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, and a MP3 player.

22. The system of claim 12 wherein at least one of billing and payment is secured before delivery of the media occurs.

23. A system providing billing support for the exchange of media, the system comprising:

- a first storage in the first home;

- a second television display in a second home;

- a user interface having at least one user defined media channel comprising a sequence of user selected and scheduled media, the user interface supporting selection and scheduling of the media;

- at least one server storing the media; and

- server software that receives a request for the delivery of the media, the request comprising information securing payment for delivery, and that responds by coordinating the delivery of the media from one of the first storage and the at least one server to the second television display for consumption.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, and data.

25. The system of claim 23 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.

26. The system of claim 23 wherein the identity of a user receiving media is unknown to the at least one server.

27. The system of claim 23 further comprising:

at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to the first storage; and

the at least one media peripheral acting as one of a source or a destination for the media.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, and a MP3 player.